(b) In view of (a) above, question does not arise.

(c) The following specialized treatment facilities are available in Safdarjung Hospital:—

(i) Root Canal treatment
(ii) Gum Surgery
(iii) Minor Surgery

(d) Improvement/Expansion is an on-going process, which are considered depending upon the needs and available resources in various Departments of Hospitals.

Inclusion of Insulin as Life Saving Drug

549. SHRI MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for Insulin being not kept in the category of life saving drug when it is essential for the survival of diabetic patients;

(b) whether it is a fact that Glucometers and Strips are not manufactured in the country;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to exempt them from customs duty altogether;

(d) whether Government are aware of the dimensions of diabetes in the country and the growing proportions of diabetic population; and

(e) if so, the preventive measures Government propose to take to contain diabetics in the country alongwith the details during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) (a) Monocomponent insulins, Porcine Insulin Zinc Suspension; and Porcine and Bovine Insulin stand notified as Life Saving Drug under List 4 of Custom Notification No. 21/2002-Cus. Dated 1.3.2002 at Sl. Nos. 71,83 and 85 respectively and are exempted from customs duty.

(b) Glucometers are manufactured in India as per information given by Health and Biotechnology Division, Department of Information and Technology, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology.

(c) Under Sl. No. 364 of Notification 21/2002 dated 1.3.2002, Blood Glucose Monitoring System (Glucometer) and test strips attract 10% custom duty.

(d) According to ICMR there is epidemiological evidence showing increase in prevalence of diabetes, particularly in urban areas of the country.

(e) National Diabetes Control Programme is being implemented by ICMR. However, Diabetes is managed by all institutions, in the health care delivery system e.g. PHC/CHC/District Hospitals, Medical Colleges etc. Central Health Education Bureau (CHEB) is the apex organisation for health education in prevention of diseases in the country. Exact year-wise details of all such activities are not available.

Departments in Safdarjung Hospital without head

550. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many Departments of Safdarjung Hospital are presently functioning without a head;

(b) if so, the details of such Departments;

(c) the efforts made/being made to have heads for these headless Departments;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the efficiency of these headless Departments has since reduced considerably; and

(e) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) In view of (a) above do not arise.

Ban on sale of tobacco

†551. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.